

Remarks

Acceptance and entry therefor of this Amendment, which, applicants submit, renders the application allowable, is respectfully requested. Supportive discussion follows.

The title was amended to be more aptly descriptive of the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of the standing objection directed thereto is respectfully requested.

Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the indication that the subject matter of claims 6-9 are considered allowable and that they would be formally allowed upon being re-presented in an appropriate self-contained format. Accordingly, applicants, through their undersigned representative, have agreed to cancel the rejected claims 1-4 and to re-present objected to claims 6-9 in an appropriate independent claimed format. Specifically, base intervening claims 6 and 8 are being re-presented as independent claims, each incorporating the subject matter of the now canceled independent claim 4. Dependent claims 7 and 9 now have as a basis allowable independent claims 6 and 8, respectively.

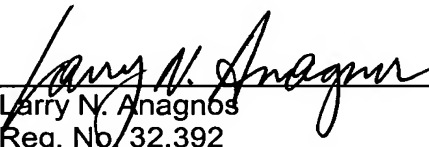
As to the previously standing rejections under 35 USC §102(e), covering claims 1-5, they have been accordingly rendered moot with the canceling of those claims. It is submitted, agreeing to the canceling of claims 1-5 should not be construed as an acquiescence with regard to the merits of the art rejections directed thereto. Rather, the canceling of those claims was effected in consideration of applicants receiving an early formal notification of allowability with regard to the present application.

Therefore, in view of the amendments presented hereinabove together with these accompanying remarks, favorable action on claims 6-9, as currently

amended, and an early formal notification of allowability of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Dep. Acct. No. 01-2135 (501.35152CC3), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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